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Doc - FBI, 11/19/70
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ENCLOSURE COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Daughters of Bilitis

FILE: NY SEE REFERENCES

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FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-164665)

DATE: 11/2/70

FROM

SA [REDACTED] (42) *7C*

SUBJECT: WOMENS LIBERATION MOVEMENT (WLM)
INFO. CONCERNING- MISC.

Attached is xerox copy of [REDACTED] *7D*

The original copy of [REDACTED]
is located in NY 100-164665-Sub B. *(X)u*

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ON *6-9-85*

comp
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Classified by *SP1/KJ/1/4/84*

Declassify on: OADR *1/3/84*

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100-164665-730

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FBI - NEW YORK	



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ENCLOSURE COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Daughters of Bilitis

FILE: New York

SEE REFERENCES

PAGES REVIEWED 11

PAGES RELEASED 4

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FOR THIS PAGE

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (100-164665)

FROM

SUBJECT: WOMENS LIBERATION MOVEMENT (WLM)
INFO. CONCERNING- MISC.

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#231,735

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INDEX

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Lesbian Issue and Women's Lib

By JUDY KLEMESRUD

The Lesbian issue, which has been hidden away like a demented child ever since the women's liberation movement came into being in 1966, was brought out of the closet yesterday.

Nine leaders of the movement held a press conference at the Washington Square Methodist Church, 133 West Fourth Street, to express their "solidarity with the struggle of homosexuals to attain their liberation in a sexist society."

The conference was prompted by an article in the Behavior section of the December 14 issue of Time magazine, which said that Kate Millett, author of "Sexual Politics" and one of the chief theoreticians of the movement, had probably "discredited herself as a spokeswoman for her cause" because she disclosed at a recent meeting that she was bisexual.

Prepared Statement Is Read

The 36-year-old Miss Millett, sitting in the center of the leaders at a table in the front of the church, read a statement that she said had been prepared last Monday night at a meeting of about 20 women representing such groups as the National Organization for Women (NOW), Radical Lesbians, Columbia Women's Liberation and Daughters of Bilitis.

The statement said, in part: "Women's liberation and homosexual liberation are both struggling towards a common goal: A society free from defining and categorizing people by virtue of gender and/or sexual preference. 'Lesbian' is a label used as a psychic weapon to keep women locked into their male-defined 'feminine role.' The es-

sence of that role is that a woman is defined in terms of her relationship to men. A woman is called a Lesbian when she functions autonomously. Women's autonomy is what women's liberation is all about."

Standing behind Miss Millett as she spoke were about 50 women supporters, who frequently interrupted her statement with cheers. Other leaders in the group were Gloria Steinem, the journalist; Ruth Simpson, president of the New York chapter of Daughters of Bilitis; Florynce Kennedy, a lawyer; Sally Kempton and Susan Brownmiller, journalists and members of New York Radical Feminists; and Ivy Bottini, Dolores Alexander and Ti-Grace Atkinson of NOW.

"It's not quite my position," Miss Atkinson, a tall, slender blonde in blue sunglasses said afterwards. "It's not radical enough. If men succeed in associating Lesbianism with the women's movement, then they destroy the movement."

The Lesbian issue had been festering for several months, especially since the Women's Strike for Equality last August 26.

At a rally at Bryant Park following the August 26 march down Fifth Avenue, a member of the Radical Lesbians made a plaintive plea for support from her "straight" sisters in the movement. The speaker charged that the police were harassing Lesbians, and that other women in the movement were ignoring their plight.

"We're your sisters, and we need help!" the speaker cried.

The church had been decorated for the press conference with posters that read, "Kate Is Great," "We Stand To-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"THE NEW YORK TIMES

Page 47

Date: 12/18/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

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Submitting Office:

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100-164665-82

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FBI - NEW YORK	

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gether as Women. Regardless of Sexual Preference," and "Is the Status of Liberty a Lesbian, Too?"

During the question period, Miss Alexander said she thought the movement had taken an overly long time to deal with the Lesbian issue because many women in the movement were afraid to confront it.

'Such an Explosive Issue'

"It's such an explosive issue," she said. "It can intimidate women. Many women would be reduced to tears if you called them Lesbians."

She added that the movement represented women who were "heterosexuals, homosexuals, tall, short, fat, skinny, black, yellow and white."

"People must speak up as Lesbians," said Barbara Love, of the Gay Liberation Front. "I am a Lesbian. We've got to come out and fight, because we're not going to get anywhere if we don't."

Miss Kennedy, the only black woman among the leaders, called for a total "girlcott" of the products of the major advertisers in Time magazine.

Although they weren't present, supporting statements were distributed from Bella Abzug, Democratic Representative-elect of the 19th Congressional District; Carolina Bird, author of "Born Female," and Aileen C. Hernandez, national president of NOW, who called the attempts to use Lesbianism as a weapon against the women's liberation movement "sexual McCarthyism."

Betty Friedan, high priestess of the women's liberation movement and a conservative on the Lesbian issue, did not attend the press conference. Leaders said they had tried to contact her, but that she was "out of town."



Kate Millett, left, and Gloria Steinem at press conference at which feminists gave support to Lesbians.

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NY 142

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC 100-165119 (42)

DATE: 12/9/70

FROM: SA [REDACTED] (41)

SUBJECT: ALTERNATE U.
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The information on the FD 302 was made available by:

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INDEX: [REDACTED] DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS.

1-100-156835 (Vietnam Peace Parade Comm.) (42)

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